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SUBCHAPTER VIII—SPECIAL DEMONSTRATIONS AND TRAINING PROJECTS

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CHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This chapter is referred to in sections 762a, 780a, 1533, 1605, 1792, 2841 of this title; title 2 sections 1302, 1311, 1371, 1434; title 3 sections 402, 411; title 5 section 8104; title 7 section 2279d; title 20 sections 107a, 107d-4, 1011, 1453, 2308, 3441, 4356, 6143; title 22 section 2102; title 26 section 51; title 38 sections 3117, 3118, 7462; title 42 sections 290dd, 1760, 1784, 3013, 3026, 6008, 6024, 6042, 6705, 11701, 12117, 12592.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

**§ 701. Findings; purpose; policy**

**(a) Findings**

Congress finds that—

- (1) millions of Americans have one or more physical or mental disabilities and the number of Americans with such disabilities is increasing;
- (2) individuals with disabilities constitute one of the most disadvantaged groups in society;
- (3) disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to—

- (A) live independently;
- (B) enjoy self-determination;
- (C) make choices;
- (D) contribute to society;
- (E) pursue meaningful careers; and
- (F) enjoy full inclusion and integration in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of American society;

(4) increased employment of individuals with disabilities can be achieved through implementation of statewide workforce investment systems under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 [29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.] that provide meaningful and effective participation for individuals with disabilities in workforce investment activities and activities carried out under the vocational rehabilitation program established under subchapter I of this chapter, and through the provision of independent living services, support services, and meaningful opportunities for employment in integrated work settings through the provision of reasonable accommodations;

(5) individuals with disabilities continually encounter various forms of discrimination in such critical areas as employment, housing, public accommodations, education, transportation, communication, recreation, institutionalization, health services, voting, and public services; and

(6) the goals of the Nation properly include the goal of providing individuals with disabilities with the tools necessary to—

- (A) make informed choices and decisions; and
- (B) achieve equality of opportunity, full inclusion and integration in society, employment, independent living, and economic and social self-sufficiency, for such individuals.

**(b) Purpose**

The purposes of this chapter are—

(1) to empower individuals with disabilities to maximize employment, economic self-sufficiency, independence, and inclusion and integration into society, through—

(A) statewide workforce investment systems implemented in accordance with title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 [29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.] that include, as integral components, comprehensive and coordinated state-of-the-art programs of vocational rehabilitation;

(B) independent living centers and services;

- (C) research;
- (D) training;
- (E) demonstration projects; and
- (F) the guarantee of equal opportunity; and

(2) to ensure that the Federal Government plays a leadership role in promoting the employment of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with significant disabilities, and in assisting States and providers of services in fulfilling the aspirations of such individuals with disabilities for meaningful and gainful employment and independent living.